MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

December 2023 – The December MNS meeting will be held at our traditional location and time, Thursday, December 21, at 6 PM in the Mayfair Mall Community Room. The meeting will be the annual election and Christmas party. Members are welcome to bring show and tell items and a food item to share.

President:	Justin Perrault	**Vice President:**	Jim Heinrich
Secretary:	James Kubley	**Treasurer:**	Chris Kantak
Sgt. at Arms:	Dave Herrewig	**Trustee '22-'24:**	Jordan Heller
Trustee '23-'25:	Dave Hunsicker	**Trustee '21-'23:**	Gary Bieringer
Librarian:	Justin Perrault	**Newsletter editor:**	Leon Saryan

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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are now held from 6 to 8 PM in the Mayfair Mall community room on the third Thursday of each month.

December Coin of the Month: **For December, we offer a PCGS MS-70 US silver eagle, dated 2020 Starting price for this flawless pure silver eagle coin is only $50.**

December 2023 MNS President's Message

As we close out 2023, our December meeting is shaping up to be one of our busier ones. There are three important items we will vote on: (1) Whether to begin meeting at the Cleveland Pub & Grill in 2024; (2) MNS Board for 2024; (3) Membership applications submitted by Dave and Simon Gartner. I will plan on having plenty of pizza there for us to eat and carry us through.

Regarding the vote on the new meeting location, it will be conducted by written ballot, and a 75% supermajority vote in favor of the move will be required. Each member in attendance that wishes to speak on the matter will sign up and have exactly two (2) minutes to voice your opinion. After that we will proceed to the vote. If you are a member that regularly attends the monthly meetings but for whatever reason cannot make the December meeting, please contact me by phone or e-mail (noted below) and your absentee vote will be counted.

Attempting to find a new meeting location has been a long and arduous process. While there is never a "perfect" location, it is up to you as a voting member to weigh the positives and negatives in determining whether this will be the proper and beneficial action for the Club to take at this time. The following is a list of attributes which I compiled and presented at the last meeting:

Positives	Negatives
No Sgt at Arms materials needed for refreshments, only US flag, sign-in book, door prize numbers	New location may not be as convenient for some members (i.e. "change is hard")
Wide food menu to order from, with accommodating staff	New PO Box needed, resulting in change to all Club correspondence, accounts, etc.
Ample parking, no stairs, easy bathroom access	Bit more cramped, varied seating arrangement
Pizza on menu available for Christmas party	Nosier due to bar/restaurant adjacency
Room held for us 3rd Thursday all year	No lower level security presence like Mayfair
Meeting time flexibility 7-9 PM, with earlier soft start to socialize	No covered parking
Presumably safe and secure, no mall riff-raff	Poorer quality lighting
No cost to use the space, no need to shake down members as refreshment volunteers	No screen to use for presentations/DVDs
Catering menu available for Club purchased refreshment/soda orders	More casual?
More casual?	

Most of you know that we have been kicking around the idea of a new meeting location for several years now. It is very difficult to find any place that is willing to accommodate a non-profit social club for regular monthly meetings all the year through. We are very limited in our choices due to most places imposing expensive hourly fees, not allowing outside food/drink, or being closed to the public entirely due to ongoing Covid restrictions. Presumably, we would be able to return to the Mayfair location at a future date if we so choose. And if in the meantime we are presented with another more suitable location we could check it out and see if it works for our needs.

I have a list of close to a dozen locations I considered and looked into, but for one reason or another none of those locations appeared feasible, most notably because these places do not have meeting rooms available for outside community organizations. This just seems to be in keeping with our lack of community cohesiveness in society these days, since no one seems willing to open up their space to outside non-profit hobby interests. It seems the only way for a non-profit organization to survive and be guaranteed a regular annual meeting space would be in the best case scenario to own their own real estate/building to operate out of. Again, this is not feasible for the MNS due to our budget constraints and the fact we are comprised solely of volunteers. I have looked into purchase of a building and we would need at least $350k, not to mention all of the up-keep, taxes, and other responsibilities that would accompany such an investment. Our hands are tied and our options are limited, at best. The fact that our Club has survived for 90 continuous years is nothing short of a miracle in this day and age of ever changing interests and lack of involvement in the hobby community.

The 2024 slate for officer elections is as follows:

President: Justin Perrault	Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Secretary: James Kubley	Treasurer: Chris Kantak
Sgt at Arms: Open (to be appointed)	Trustee '24-'26: Gary Bieringer

If we have time after all of that, we will play a rousing game of Bingo for a selection of prizes, and hopefully have some time leftover for a few exhibits. Here's looking forward to seeing a nice turn-out for the December meeting. Please feel free to bring any other snacks or a dish to accompany the pizza. I believe we have the need for soda covered.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

Milwaukee & Waukesha County Firemens Ass'n 3rd Annual Tournament fob, Cudahy, July 24-25, 1909. Gilt metal, 40 mm diameter, manufactured by Schwab S & S of Milwaukee (LAS collection)

MN$ 2023

Schedule

Monthly meetings for the calendar year will proceed as scheduled. Due to changes at Mayfair Mall, our meetings will run from 6:00-8:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Dec 21:	Christmas Party/Bingo/Elections

2024

Jan 18:	General Business/Show & Tell
Feb 15:	Open
March 21:	Show & Tell-Non Numismatic
April 18:	Spring Auction
May 16:	Open
June 20:	Open
July 18:	Open
Aug 15:	Open
Sept 19:	Numismatic Trivia Game
Oct 17:	Autumn Auction
Nov 21:	Raffle Prize Drawing
Dec 19:	Christmas Party/Bingo/Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2024 are $10. Please pay Treasurer Chris K. at the next meeting, or they can be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886.** Thanks to those who have paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the club's mailing list.

Random Information

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, and helpers to work at events. MNS will also reimburse refreshment expenses up to $60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make the club a success.

2024 Numismatic Events

Feb 18:	Oshkosh Coin Show Oshkosh Convention Ctr. 2 N. Main St, 9-4 PM
March 24:	Appleton Coin Show Hilton Paper Valley Hotel 333 W. College Ave, 9-4 PM
April 21:	SSCC Coin Show
April 21:	Wisconsin Valley CC Show Holiday Inn Rothschild 1000 Imperial Ave, 9-4 PM
May 1-4:	Central States Coin Show Schaumburg, IL
Aug 6-10:	ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL
Nov. 10:	MNS/NOW Coin Show 9-4 PM Sheraton Hotel Brookfield

Refreshment Schedule

Dec 21:	Christmas Party

2024

Jan 18:	Open
Feb 15:	Open
March 21:	Open
April 18:	Open
May 16:	Open
June 20:	Open
July 18:	Open
Aug 15:	Open
Sept 19:	Open
Oct 17:	Open
Nov 21:	Open
Dec 19:	Christmas Party

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

November 16, 2023

President Justin Perrault called the 1043rd meeting of the MNS to order at 6:00pm. There were 24 members & 2 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by Jim H, Kevin F, Dave H, Don K, Gary B, Rob M, Steve J and Chris M.

Coin of the Month: Steve S. won the coin of the month, a rare variety 2021 US Silver Eagle Type 1 MS70, with a winning bid of $91.00.

Minutes: The minutes for October 2023 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chris K. reported that October showed net receipts of $154.00, Vanguard transfer, interest earned transfer, and $492.41 in net disbursements for a net cash flow of $595.02. The club also received updated financials from the MNS coin show.

Correspondence: None

Vice President Report: December is our Holiday Party. There will be pizza, but we would appreciate it if those attending brought a dish or snack to share with everyone. We also have plenty of openings for refreshments and programs in 2024.

Vote on New Location: At the December meeting the club will be voting on whether to change the meeting location in 2024. There are pros and cons (see president's message) all members in attendance will have a vote. However, if you can't attend the meeting but would like to be heard please contact Justin P.

MNS Coin Show: The show was a success. The best exhibit award was won by Floyd A – Naval Aviator exhibit. Thanks to everyone who helped and volunteered!

2024 Slate of Candidates for elected club officers:

President	Justin Perrault	**Sgt. at Arms**	Dave Herrewig
Vice President	Jim Heinrich	**Trustee 21-23**	Gary Bieringer
Treasurer	Chris Kantak	**Trustee 22-24**	Jordan Heller
Secretary	James Kubley	**Trustee 23-25**	Dave Hunsicker

There was a motion to waive constitution and bylaws due to term limits. The motion was approved.

MNS Coin Show Raffle Winners: Alex V, Chris K, Nancy T, Don K, Chris H, Dale L, Josh W, Mary W, Leon S, Bob B, Fernando K, Mike H, Mark, Chris K, Floyd A, Linda C, Joy C, Chris K, Simon G, Diane K, David S, Dan P, Bill M, Chris K, Elle N, and Gary B.

Show and Tell: Justin P – Mellin's Items / Floyd A – 1869 Assay Medal / Josh W – Dave H / James K – Worlds Fair / Leon S – 1909 Rare Cudahy Watch Fob / Jordan H – East Germany Ostmark Bank Notes and Coin Set / Simon M – 3 of my Most Rare US Coins.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 8:07pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by James Kubley

Neil Shafer on the Go: A Remembrance

By Dave Hunsicker

We were all sad to lose accomplished numismatist Neil Shafer a few months ago. As a great numismatist, he was one not to slow down.

About three years ago when his health was holding him back, he did not want to quit attending coin shows. He wanted to attend the FUN show in Florida, however his family was a bit hesitant. So that he could go, he asked me if I would kind of mentor him at the show. I agreed to help out. His son Joel got Neil to the show, but he was busy with his job with Lyn Knight Currency. I would go to the show and carry Neil's famous brief case from dealer to dealer. He would spend an hour or more at each dealer and then call me for a move to the next. At the end of the day, we would catch the shuttle, go out for dinner and then I would make sure he got into his hotel room.

The next year I helped him out at the ANA in Chicago. This time he had a walker with a seat. I would still carry his brief case, however sometimes he would just take off by himself and put the brief case on the walker. I was still in contact with him by phone and we would go to lunch.

Still having a great desire to attend shows, last year he was at Central States in Schaumburg. We had the same routine and at times he would rest at Lyn Knight's booth. He stayed at the convention hall and at the end of the show I met him at check out and we went to lunch. From there I took him home to his residence in Mequon. As you can see, he was very enthusiastic at going to shows.

As recently as earlier this year Neil expressed a desire to attend the military collectors group called FEST which he went to most of the last 24 years. It was now even harder for him to get around and after some discussion he agreed that the long trip to Port Clinton, Ohio, might be too much for him.

I had an opportunity to visit Neil at his residence in August. We had a good chat together and I will tell you the rest of the story at the meeting.###

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF CHET'S MEDAL

By Tom Casper

By now you probably have read a story abut the dedication of Chester L. Krause Legacy Park. This happened on October 13, 2023 in Iola, Wisconsin. The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of a statue to be displayed in the park. Upon opening the wood crate, we viewed a 600-pound, bronze statue of Chet. He is shown in a standing position, holding and examining what appears to be a coin. Knowing that he was a coin publisher as well as a coin collector, I thought this was a fitting way to remember him. But my curiosity was piqued as to exactly what coin he was holding.

When I inquired about the coin, I was told it was not a coin but a military medal from the unit he served with in WWII. I asked around for anyone who had one or a picture of one to get the exact wording. I even contacted the company that struck the medals, SilverTowne Mint of Winchester, Indiana, but they were unable to locate the dies for a picture of the medal. After contacting the sculptor, Eugene Daub of San Pedro, CA, with negative results, I asked Cliff Mishler for assistance. He rooted around and after a while he was able to locate an example.

The obverse of the medal reads 565 AAA AW Bn/ (artillery shell and crossed cannons)/W.W. II/Patton's Third Army. The reverse says GALA REUNION/Battles/Bulge, Rhineland/Central Europe/1944-1945/ (artillery piece)/A (in circle)/Nashville Tennessee September 7-8, 2001. It is a one-ounce, .999 silver round, unmarked), reeded edge, and 39 mm. It had a very limited striking of only 100 pieces. The AAA stands for Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Bn means Battalion. When I spoke with Chet it was always about numismatics or Krause Publications; I was unaware of his military service.

Chet was drafted during World War II on February 11, 1943 and was discharged in February, 1946. After high school he had taken some auto mechanics classes. When the Army learned of that they immediately classified him as an auto mechanic. His job assignment would be to keep the cars, jeeps and trucks up and running. In his unit he was the only who knew how to weld. He was assigned to the 565th AAA unit which was part of General George Patton's Third Army. His tour took him through Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. The battles they fought in included Battle of Ardennes, the famous Battle of the Bulge, and Battle of the Rhineland. During this time, he was promoted to T/4, a sergeant. His unit was first to arrive at Buchenwald, a Nazi concentration camp near Weimar, Germany. In 1993, Chet published a book on the 565th and, in 2001 there was a planned reunion of the 565th in Nashville, Tennessee. Chet had these medals struck and handed them out to his buddies in the unit at the reunion.

This particular military-related medal was chosen for the statue not only to honor him for his numismatic accomplishments but to also honor him for his service to our country in World War II. Chet partially designed this medal and was active in this veterans' organization. One of these medals was provided to the sculptor so he could incorporate some of the design elements into the statue medal. I hope this additional information adds to the legacy of Chester L. Krause, a member of the Greatest Generation. A special thank you to Cliff Mishler for locating an example of this medal and for providing some of the information.###

1988 Earthquake in Armenia: 35th Anniversary

December 7, 2023 marks the 35th anniversary of a massive earthquake which devastated the northern third of Armenia, particularly the cities of Gyumri (Leninakan), Stepanavan, Spitak and Vanadzor (Kirovakan). The human toll was enormous. An estimated 25,000 people died, many of whom were crushed beneath collapsed buildings, and over 100,000 were left homeless. Although rescue and relief efforts from the USA, Europe, the USSR, and the worldwide Armenian diaspora began immediately, it took more than 20 years to restore the destruction. In 2013, when I visited Gyumri, I saw a new city that had arisen from the dust of the old. One of the first humanitarian organizations to lend a hand was Mother Teresa's mission. This medal, one of several struck to memorialize the earthquake, also notes Mother Teresa's first ever visit to the then-USSR (Dec. 21, 1988), just two weeks afterward, to provide aid to the earthquake victims. The obverse depicts Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the reverse shows the map of Armenia and the flag of then Soviet Armenia. Legends are in Italian; 31.5 mm diameter, 15.35 grams, 0.925 silver. Copper examples were also issued. – **L. A. Saryan**